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ABSTRACT

Professional school counselors are required by law and/or regulation in every state to obtain a state-issued credential in order to be employed in public schools. In some states, this credential is called "certification"; others term it "licensure" or "endorsement." This guide provides a chart summarizing the requirements and qualifications needed to obtain school counseling credentials in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The requirements outlined for each state are those necessary to obtain an initial entry-level credential as a professional school counselor. This chart provides information on educational, experience, and examination requirements, reciprocity, and background checks. An additional chart shows which states mandate counseling, at which grade level (K-8 or 9-12) it is mandated, the counselor to student ratio, the source of the mandate, who funds the mandate, and whether or not a mandate is being considered. Examples of state counseling mandates from Georgia, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and South Carolina are provided. Statements from the American School Counselor Association explaining the role of school counselors and comprehensive school counseling programs are also included. (GCP)

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A Guide to State Laws and Regulations on Professional School Counseling

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CG031651

ABOUT THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT

The information in this report was compiled through an analysis of state laws, regulations, credentialing applications, and written communications with state officials. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented here, but due to the complexity of some of the regulations and the frequency with which state regulations can and do change, we cannot guarantee that this report is completely without error. Readers are invited to bring any errors, omissions, or changes to our attention at the American Counseling Association, Office of Public Policy & Legislation, 5999 Stevenson Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304.

For additional information, or clarification or interpretation of any of the laws and regulations summarized in this report, please contact the appropriate state agency.

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STATE CREDENTIALING OF PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Professional school counselors are required by law and/or regulation in every state to obtain a state-issued credential in order to be employed in public schools. In some states, this credential is called "certification"; others term it "licensure" or "endorsement".

The requirements and qualifications needed to obtain this credential in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia are summarized in the chart on pages 7-40 of this report. The requirements outlined for each state are those necessary to obtain an initial entry-level credential as a professional school counselor. Some states permit school counselors to obtain provisional or temporary credentials pending their satisfaction of all of these requirements. Readers who are interested in this option should contact their state agency to learn whether, and under what circumstances, it may be available in their state.

Renewal and Different Tiers of Licensure

Most states require professional school counselors to complete additional coursework or earn continuing education credits in order to renew their credentials. Some states also have different tiers of credentialing, granting counselors with greater experience and/or educational attainment, credentials of longer duration. Information about these elements of state credentialing programs is omitted from this report.

Alternative Routes to Certification

A growing number of states are establishing alternative paths for the credentialing of teachers and other school personnel. In compiling this report, we have tried to include any alternative certification program that affects requirements for professional school counselors. Information on this issue was difficult to obtain, however, and we would welcome more information and feedback from professional school counselors and state officials in those states that are implementing alternative certification programs.

AN OVERVIEW OF STATE CREDENTIALING REQUIREMENTS

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

⇒ ***All states require graduate education in guidance and counseling as an entry-level prerequisite for state credentialing as a professional school counselor.*** Forty-one (41) states and the District of Columbia require attainment of a Master's degree in counseling and guidance or a related field.

⇒ ***Twenty (20) states require applicants to complete a specific minimum number of credit hours of graduate study in guidance and counseling before they can be credentialed.*** An additional seven (7) states require this only if the Master's degree earned is in a field other than school counseling and guidance or teacher education. The number of required hours ranges from 18-39 semester hours. Most states (12) require completion of 30 credit hours or more.

⇒ ***Twelve (12) states require applicants to supplement their graduate education in guidance and counseling with training or coursework in additional subject areas.*** These areas include:

- Education of children with disabilities (6 states: CT, GA, IA, MO, NE, NV)
- Multicultural issues (5 states: AK, MN, NE, NV, OR)
- Substance abuse counseling (1 state: NV)
- State and/or Federal laws and constitutions (3 states: NV, OR, WY)
- Use and applications of technology in education (1 state: OR)
- Identification and reporting of child abuse (2 states: NY, WA)

⇒ ***Twenty-eight (28) states and the District of Columbia require completion of a practicum and/or a supervised, school-based internship.*** The prescribed duration of the internship ranges from 200-700 clock hours.

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

⇒ ***Twenty-five (25) states and the District of Columbia require applicants to have previous employment experience in order to obtain an entry-level credential.***

- Twenty-four (24) states and the District of Columbia require applicants to have previous teaching or related experience (1-3 years).

- Five (5) of these states require applicants to have previous teaching or related experience (1-3 years), but permit these requirements to be satisfied by completion of a one-year supervised, school-based internship (Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin).

- Two (2) states, Nevada and New Hampshire, require applicants to have previous teaching or related experience only if their graduate study was in a major other than guidance and counseling.

- One (1) state, Maine, requires applicants to have previous work experience in any area.

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

⇒ ***Twenty-four (24) states use one or more standardized examinations as part of the credentialing process.*** An additional eight (8) states use only state-administered tests (i.e., Massachusetts Communication and Literacy Test).

- Seventeen (17) states use examinations that measure professional knowledge of the practice of guidance and counseling (NTE Specialty Area Exam or Praxis II Specialty Area Exam in School Guidance & Counseling and equivalents).
- Seventeen (17) states use examinations that measure basic proficiency in reading, mathematics, and writing (the Praxis I PPST, NTE Core Battery, and equivalents).
- Six (6) states use examinations that measure professional knowledge of teaching and learning (the NTE Specialty Area Exam in Teaching, Praxis II Specialty Area Exam: Principles of Learning & Teaching, and equivalents).

RECIPROCITY

⇒ ***Thirty-four (34) states and the District of Columbia allow reciprocity.***

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

⇒ ***Fourty-three (43) states and the District of Columbia require criminal background checks of all applicants.*** One (1) state, Nebraska, requires this only if the applicant is a non-Nebraska resident or has not lived in the state for 5 consecutive years.

USING AND UNDERSTANDING THE INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THE CHART

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

This column sets out the minimum educational qualifications required to be credentialed as a professional school counselor. Special coursework or training requirements (i.e., multicultural training, identification of child abuse) are also detailed.

Recency Credit and Recency Experience

Many states require applicants to have earned at least a portion of their academic credits within the past several years (generally, five years). Some also require that any experience applied toward meeting experience requirements be recent as well. These requirements are denoted on the chart by the terms "recency credit" and "recency experience". The state agency should be contacted for more information about the specifics of these requirements.

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

This column indicates what previous experience is required in order to obtain credentialing as a professional school counselor. A number of states, for example, require applicants to have previous classroom teaching experience. In some instances, these experience requirements may be satisfied while working under a provisional or temporary credential. The state agency should be contacted to learn whether this option is available.

EXAMINATION

A number of states require professional school counselors to pass standardized examinations as part of their credentialing requirements. This column outlines the tests required and, if available, the minimum passing score required.

Educational Testing Service Assessments

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) administers many of tests that are used by state agencies in their credentialing program.

- ***Praxis I: Pre-Professional Skills Tests*** (PPST) measure proficiency in mathematics, reading, and writing through multiple choice questions and an essay. They are administered by ETS on a regular basis in pencil and paper format at sites throughout the country. Computer-based versions of these assessments can also be taken by appointment at ETS field offices and other sites.

- ***Praxis II: Specialty Area Exams*** measure proficiency in and knowledge of a specific field of specialization, in this case, School Guidance and Counseling. In some cases, the Principles of Learning and Teaching section is required.

- The ***National Teacher Exam (NTE) Core Battery Tests*** measure proficiency in three areas: General Knowledge, Communication Skills, and Professional Knowledge.

- The ***National Teacher Exam Specialty Area Tests*** measure proficiency in and knowledge of a specific field of specialization. The applicable tests for professional school counselors are the Teaching assessment and/or the School Guidance and Counseling assessment.

For more information about these examinations, contact ETS at 1-800-772-9476.

State-Administered Assessments

Some states have developed and administer their own assessments for school counselors, teachers, and other school personnel. State agencies should be contacted for more information about these assessments.

RECIPROCITY

This column indicates whether the state recognizes a comparable credential issued by another state and permits applicants to use this credential to meet all or part of the state's requirements for credentialing.

The complexity of state reciprocity regulations and procedures precluded us from providing more detailed information about how reciprocity is handled by each state. The process is never automatic, however, and out-of-state credentials may only be substituted to the extent that they are comparable to the credentials of the state in which the application is being made.

BACKGROUND CHECK

This column reports whether a state requires applicants to supply fingerprints and undergo a criminal background check. Some additional background requirements, such as U.S. citizenship, are also indicated here.

ACRONYMS

CACREP: Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

NASDTEC: National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education & Certification

NBCC: National Board for Certified Counselors

NCC: National Certified Counselor, a credential issued by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)

NCATE: National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
ALABAMA Education Department PO Box 302101 Montgomery, AL 36130-2101 (334) 242-9977 www.alsde.edu $20.00 application fee and $49.00 fee for background checks (ABI & FBI)	Baccalaureate level certification in teaching Master's degree in an approved school counseling program at a regionally accredited institution Completion of a 30 hr. practicum & a 300 clock hr. counseling internship	2 yrs. full-time educational experience	Written exam designed by the institution	Yes	Yes, for individuals who (1) are earning a certificate, (2) have changed employers, and (3) have not been checked within 2 yrs.
ALASKA Department of Education & Early Development 801 W. 10th Street, Suite 200 Juneau, AK 99801-1894 (907) 465-2831 www.educ.state.ak.us $90.00 application fee and $66.00 fee for fingerprint processing	Bachelor's degree or higher Type A Teacher Certificate with an endorsement in school counseling: Completion of an approved teacher prep program at a regionally accredited institution with a posted major or minor of at least 18 semester hours in counseling Type C Related Services certificate with an endorsement in counseling: Completion of a counseling program at a regionally accredited institution AND for both certificates: -Completion of 3 semester hrs. in Alaska studies & 3 semester hrs. in multicultural education or cross-cultural communication -Recommendation of the preparing institution -6 semester hours of credit earned within the last 5 years	None * Those who hold a valid teaching certificate from another state may apply for a Preliminary Certificate, valid for 3 years * Those who lack the 3 semester hours of Alaska studies & multicultural education requirement may apply for a Provisional Certificate, valid for 2 years * Those who lack the 6 semester hours of credit earned within the last 5 years, may apply for a Temporary Certificate, valid for 1 year	For a Type A Teacher Certificate with an endorsement in school counseling: Praxis I (PPST/CBT) -reading: 175/322 -writing: 174/321 -math: 173/318 For Type C Related Services certificate with an endorsement in counseling: None	Yes, with all states, but requirements must be met	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
ARIZONA Education Department 1535 W. Jefferson Phoenix, AZ 85007 (602) 542-4367 www.ade.state.az.us $30.00 application fee and $44.00 for fingerprint processing *Call the AZ Department of Public Safety for a Fingerprint Clearance Card application at (602) 223-2279	Master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution in an approved school guidance and counseling program	2 yrs. of verified, full-time experience as a school guidance counselor OR 3 yrs. classroom teaching experience OR Completion of a supervised practicum in school counseling from an accredited institution (the college/university sets the # of hrs. required)	None	No	Yes
ARKANSAS Education Department Arch Ford Education Bldg. Four Capitol Mall Little Rock, AR 72201-1071 (501) 682-4475 http://arkedu.state.ar.us No application fee	Graduate level program of study in school counseling & guidance from an approved institution (# of hours required determined by the institution)	Must hold or be eligible to hold a valid AR teaching license	Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling: 600	Yes	Yes

STATE	*EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS*	*EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS*	*EXAMINATION*	*RECIPROCITY*	*BACK GROUND CHECK*
CALIFORNIA Commission on Teacher Credentialing 1900 Capitol Avenue Sacramento, CA 95814-4213 (916) 327-1461 www.ctc.ca.gov	Bachelor's degree from an approved/accredited institution Postbaccalaureate study consisting of a minimum of 30 semester hours in a Commission-approved professional preparation program specializing in school counseling Field experience working with school aged children (minimum of 450 clock hours) Practicum (minimum 100 clock hours) *Effective January 1, 2003, a minimum of 48 semester hours of postbaccalaureate study and a minimum of 600 clock hours of field experience will be required.	None	California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) *total scaled score must be at least 123 (41 in each of the 3 sections - reading, writing, and math)	Yes	Yes

STATE	*EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS*	*EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS*	*EXAMINATION*	*RECIPROCITY*	*BACK GROUND CHECK*
COLORADO Education Department 201 E. Colfax Avenue Denver, CO 80203-1799 (303) 866-6628 www.cde.state.co.us $48.00 application fee and $36.00 for fingerprint processing	Master's degree or higher in school counseling & guidance from an accredited institution of higher education	None	PLACE Examination: School Counseling & Guidance Specialty Assessment	Yes	Yes
CONNECTICUT Bureau of Certification and Professional Development 165 Capitol Avenue PO Box 150471 Hartford, CT 06115-0471 (860) 713-6969 www.state.ct.us/sde $50.00 nonrefundable application fee *The initial educator certificate is $100 which includes the $50 application fee	Master's degree and institutional recommendation from a regionally accredited college/university (at least 30 semester hrs. in school counseling planned program) Completion of a practicum and laboratory experience (the college/university program sets the # of hrs. required) Completion of study in special education comprised of not fewer than 36 clock hrs. (including gifted and talented children and special-needs children in the regular classsroom)	Must hold a CT professional educator certificate or be eligible to hold an initial educator certificate 30 school months of successful teaching experience OR Completion of a full-time supervised school internship of 10 school months in a school setting (internship is in addition to the practicum and laboratory experience required by the program)	Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST)	Yes, with 11 states	Yes, at point of hire

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
DELAWARE Department of Education Townsend Building PO Box 1402 Dover, DE 19903 (302) 739-4645 www.doe.state.de.us $10.00 application fee	Master's degree from a regionally accredited college in an approved program in elementary/secondary school counseling OR Master's degree from a regionally accredited college in any field with a minimum of 27 semester hrs. of graduate coursework in the following areas: • Principles & Practices of the Guidance Program • Individual Counseling Skills • Group Counseling Skills • Human Development • Developmental Group Guidance • Individual & Group Testing for Counselors • Counseling Theory • Consultation • Supervised Practicum	A minimum of 3 yrs. professional experience in a school setting OR 3 yrs. of appropriate experience as approved by DE Dept. of Public Instruction OR 1 yr. full-time supervised school counseling internship which is part of a graduate degree program in school counseling or is arranged by the Dept. of Public Instruction [*Certification as a counselor in career guidance requires an additional 1 yr. experience in a non-educational setting*]	Praxis I PPST: Reading: 175 Writing: 173 Mathematics: 174	Yes	Yes

STATE	*EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS*	*EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS*	*EXAMINATION*	*RECIPROCITY*	*BACK GROUND CHECK*
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Educational Credentialing & Standards Branch 825 N. Capitol St., NE, 6th Fl. Washington, DC 20002 (202) 442-5377 www.k12.dc.us $30.00 application fee	Master's degree in counseling from an accredited institution 300 clock hrs. of graduate level, university-supervised field experience/practicum/ internship in counseling in a school setting pre-K-12 * Field experience requirement waived for graduates of CACREP approved programs or if applicant is NBCC certified	2 yrs. of successful full-time experience in teaching (1 yr. could be satisfied by full-time work experience in a non-school setting)	None	Yes	Yes, and chest x-ray or tuberculin skin test required
FLORIDA Education Department Turlington Building, Rm. 201 Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 488-2317 www.firn.edu/doe $56.00 application fee	Master's degree or higher in guidance & counseling or counselor education which includes 3 semester hrs. in a supervised counseling practicum in an elementary/secondary school OR Master's degree or higher with at least 30 semester hrs. of specified credit in guidance & counseling Overall GPA of 2.5	None	Professional Education Test College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) Subject Test in School Guidance & Counseling	Yes	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
GEORGIA Professional Standards Commission 1452 Twin Towers East 205 Butler Street, SE Atlanta, GA 30334 (404) 657-9000 (800) 869-7775 (GA only) www.gapsc.com $20.00 application fee	Master's degree in an approved school counseling program from a regionally accredited institution (or provide documentation of a professional out-of-state certificate in school counseling) Institutional recommendation is required 3 semester hrs. of coursework in special education Recency credit/experience	None	Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling: 620	Yes	Yes
HAWAII Education Department PO Box 2360 Honolulu, HI 96804 (808) 586-3420 www.k12.hi.us No application fee	Completion of an advanced graduate level state-approved teacher education program in school counseling from an accredited institution	None	Praxis I (PPST/CBT): -Reading: 175 -Writing: 171 -Mathematics: 176 **AND** Praxis II (PLT): Principles of Learning & Teaching: K-6: 163 or 7-12: 157 **AND** Praxis II: School Counseling and Guidance: 580	Yes	Yes Must also be a U.S. citizen and resident of Hawaii

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
IDAHO Education Department 650 W. State Street Room 251 Boise, ID 83702 (208) 332-6880 www.sde.state.id.us $35.00 application fee	Master's degree in an approved program of graduate study in school guidance & counseling from a college/univ. approved by the state education agency where program was completed 700 hrs. of supervised field experience, half of which must be in a K-12 school setting Recency credit (6 semester credits in last 5 yrs.) Institutional recommendation required	None	None	Yes	Yes Must be at least 18 yrs of age Must complete Idaho Criminal History Check before initial certification can be granted
ILLINOIS State Board of Education 100 N. First Street Springfield, IL 62777-0001 (800) 845-8749 www.isbe.state.il.us $30.00 application fee $44.00 test fee	Master's degree from a recognized teacher education institution Completion of an approved program in school guidance from a recognized college/univ., consisting of 39 semester hours at the graduate level Completion of a practicum (3 semester hrs. and 100 clock hrs., 40 hrs. of which must involve direct service work with school-aged children), & and an internship (3 semester hrs.)	Must hold or be eligible to hold a valid teaching certificate (requires BA with at least 16 semester hrs. of education coursework) For applicants with less than 2 years of teaching experience, internship must be 600 clock hrs. For others, internship must be 300 clock hrs.	Illino:s Certification Testing Exam (Basic Skills Test & Subject Test)	No	No

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
INDIANA Professional Standards Board 251 East Ohio Street Suite 201 Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 232-9010 http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us $5.00 application fee	Master's degree in counseling or a related field from a regionally accredited institution with 30 semester hrs. in counseling & guidance at the graduate level Supervised practicum in counseling for students at all levels (the college/university sets the # of hrs. required) Overall 2.5 GPA Institutional recommendation	2 yrs. teaching experience OR A valid out-of-state school counseling license & 1 yr. experience as a school counselor in another state OR 1 yr. school counseling internship in a school setting under the supervision of an institution of higher education that has been approved for training of school counselors	None	Yes	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
IOWA Education Department Grimes Building Des Moines, IA 50319-0146 (515) 281-3245 www.state.ia.us $50.00 application fee School Guidance Counselor [K-6] [7-12]	Master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education Completion of an approved human relations component and an approved exceptional learner component Completion of a sequence of [specific content] courses and experiences which may have been part of, or in addition to, the degree requirements Teaching and counseling practicum consisting of a minimum of 500 clock hours (practicum must be appropriate to either the K-6 or the 7-12 counselor endorsement)	None	None	No	Yes
KANSAS Education Department 120 SE 10th Avenue Topeka, KS 66612-1182 (785) 296-2288 www.ksbe.state.ks.us $24.00 application fee	Completion of a teacher education program Master's degree in school counseling from an approved teacher education program Recency credit/experience Cumulative GPA of 2.50	Must hold or be eligible to hold a Kansas teaching certificate 2 yrs. teaching experience	Praxis II (PLT): Principles of Learning and Teaching: 161	No	Yes, beginning 7-01-02

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
KENTUCKY Education Professional Standards Board 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 225 Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 573-4606 www.kde.state.ky.us $50.00 application fee	Master's degree in guidance counseling	Must hold or be eligible to hold a valid KY certificate for classroom teaching 1 yr. full-time classroom teaching experience	None	Yes	Yes, at the local school district level
LOUISIANA Education Department PO Box 94064 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064 (225) 342-3490 www.doe.state.la.us $55.00 application fee $50.00 application fee for the Ancillary Professional Counselor certificate (issued to applicants who meet all other requirements for school counselor, but do not have a teaching certificate)	Master's degree in guidance & counseling from a regionally accredited institution, with at least 24 semester hrs. in: • Principles & Administration of School Counseling Programs • Career and Lifestyle Development • Individual Appraisal • Counseling Theory & Practice • Group Processes • Human Growth and Development • Social and Cultural Foundations in Counseling • Supervised Practicum in a School Setting	Must hold or be eligible to hold a valid LA teaching certificate (not applicable to those pursuing the Ancillary Counselor certificate) Elementary 3 yrs. of successful experience Secondary 3 yrs. of successful experience or 2 yrs. of successful experience & 1 yr. of accumulated occupational experience	None	No	Yes, at the point of hire

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
MAINE Education Department 23 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333 (207) 287-5944 www.state.me.us $50.00 application fee	Master's or Doctorate from an accredited institution in an approved program to prepare school guidance counselors, with a minimum of 33 graduate semester hours in: • Understanding of the Profession of School Guidance • Understanding of Educational Philosophies & School Operations • Consultation Skills • Individual Counseling Skills • Group Counseling • Understanding of Human Development & Behavior • Knowledge of Career Development & Career Education • Knowledge of Assessment & Testing • Research Skills Related to the Field of Guidance Completion of a 1 yr. full-time approved K-12 internship relating to duties of a school counselor in a school setting	2 yrs. of prior work experience	None	Yes	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
MARYLAND Maryland State Department of Education 200 W. Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 767-0412 www.msde.state.md.us $10.00 certification fee	Master's degree in school guidance & counseling	Programs approved by CACREP: As required by CACREP standards **OR** Programs approved on-site: 2 yrs. state-approved satisfactory performance as a teacher or school counselor **OR** 500 clock hrs. in a supervised practicum in school guidance and counseling **OR** Programs approved under the Interstate Contract agreement for support services: 2 years of satisfactory performance as a teacher or school counselor **OR** Other programs: NBCC certificate and 2 yrs. of satisfactory performance as a teacher or counselor in a school setting	None	Yes	No

STATE	*EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS*	*EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS*	*EXAMINATION*	*RECIPROCITY*	*BACK GROUND CHECK*
MASSACHUSETTS Office of Certification 350 Main Street Office of Certification PO Box 9140 Malden, MA 02148-9140 (781) 338-3000 www.doe.mass.edu $100.00 application fee School Guidance Counselor [Pre K-8] [5-12]	Master's degree or equivalent with a major in counseling Completion of a pre-practicum & practicum (the practicum must consist of a minimum of 450 clock hours)	None	Massachusetts Communication & Literacy Test	Yes	No, but applicant must sign off that they have not been convicted or are currently charged with any crime, read & sign "The Injured Children" (child abuse form), and certify compliance with state tax laws.

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
MICHIGAN Office of Professional Preparation Services PO Box 30008 Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-3310 www.state.mi.us/mde In-State: $0-$125 depending on the credential pursued Out-of-State: $175.00 School Guidance Counselor [Pre K-8] [7-12]	Option 1 * Guidance Counselor Endorsement placed on Teaching Certificate Meet educational requirements for MI teacher's certificate Completion of an approved counselor education program in school counseling & guidance (min. 18 semester hrs. of credit) School counseling practicum (the college/university sets the # of hrs. required) Recommendation of sponsoring institution Option 2 *Applicants not seeking teacher certification Master's degree or higher in school counseling from an approved school education program School counseling practicum (the college/university sets the # of hrs. required) Recommendation of sponsoring institution	Option 1 Must hold MI teacher's certificate, but prior experience not required Option 2 No experience required Option 3 Out-of-state applicants may apply for a Temporary School Counselor Authorization prior to passing the MTTC with a Master's in Guidance & Counseling or 5 out of 7 years of experience as a guidance counselor in a school setting Option 4 *Experimental Program* Preliminary Employment Authorization to work as a School Counselor (PESC) w/ or w/o a teaching certificate (in-state applicants only) Enrollment in a school counseling M.A.. program at an approved teacher prep institution participating in the Experimental Program Completion of a minimum of 34 semester hours in an in-state approved school counselor education program	Michigan Test for Teacher Certification - Guidance Counselor Section (MTTC) (all applicants must take and pass this test, even those in the Experimental Program and those from out-of-state)	Yes	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
MINNESOTA Department of Children, Families & Learning Personnel Licensing Section 1500 Highway 36 West Roseville, MN 55113 (651) 582-8691 www.educ.state.mn.us $47.00 application fee and $26.00 fee for fingerprint processing	Master's degree in school guidance & counseling from a regionally accredited college/ university (at least 54 quarter hours) 400 hr. practicum under the supervision of counselor educators from an approved college guidance & counseling program Completion of the Minnesota Human Relations Program (addresses components related to racial, cultural, economic groups and interpersonal communications)	Must hold a valid MN teaching license 1 yr. teaching experience OR 1 yr. full-time supervised internship in school guidance & counseling	Praxis I (PPST): Reading: 173 Writing: 172 Mathematics: 169 OR Praxis I Computer Based Tests (CBT): Reading: 320 Writing: 318 Mathematics: 314	No	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
MISSISSIPPI Education Department PO Box 771 Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 359-3483 www.mde.k12.ms.us No application fee	Master's degree in guidance & counseling **OR** Master's degree in another area and completion of an approved program for guidance and counseling **OR** Hold National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) credential issued by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)	If applicant does not hold a MS teaching certificate, must complete a full-year internship	If applicant already holds a MS teaching certificate: NTE School Guidance & Counseling: 600 **OR** Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling: 580 If applicant does not have a teaching certificate: Praxis I (PPST/CBT) **OR** NTE Core Battery: -Communication: 651 -Gen'l Knowledge: 646 *The NTE taken after July 1, 1997 will not be accepted for licensure **AND** NTE School Guidance & Counseling: 600 **OR** Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling: 580	Yes	No

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
MISSOURI Elementary & Secondary Education Department 205 Jefferson Street PO Box 480 Jefferson City, MO 65102 (573) 751-4212 www.dese.state.mo.us $25.00 application fee	Master's degree in guidance & counseling from a college/ university approved by the MO Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education (at least 24 semester hrs. of graduate study with 12 hrs. in school guidance and counseling) Completion of a course in psychology & education of the exceptional child for 2 or more semester hrs. Overall GPA of 2.5 Supervised practice in a school guidance program for at least 3 semester hrs.	None	Praxis II: School Guidance and Counseling	No	Yes
MONTANA Public Instruction Office 106 State Capitol PO Box 202501 Helena, MT 59620-2501 (406) 444-3095 www.metnet.state.mt.us $36.00 application fee	Master's degree in school guidance & counseling or equivalent Supervised internship of at least 600 hrs. in a school or a school-related setting Recency credit Overall GPA of 2.0	None	None	Yes	No, but applicants must be of "good moral and professional character"

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
NEBRASKA Education Department 301 Centennial Mall South PO Box 94987 Lincoln, NE 68509-4987 (402) 471-2295 www.nde.state.ne.us $45.00 application fee and $40.00 fee for fingerprint processing	Master's degree in school counseling from a standard institution of higher education Overall GPA of 2.5 Training in human relations (3 hrs. of credit in a course that addresses racism, sexism, multicultural issues) Completion of special education competencies requirement (3 credit hrs.) Recommendation from the college/university attended Recency credit	Must hold a NE teaching certificate 2 yrs. of teaching experience * Out-of-state applicants who have completed an approved program in another state are not required to complete the 2 year teaching requirement	Praxis I PPST: Reading: 170 Writing: 172 Mathematics: 171 <u>OR</u> Praxis I CBT: Reading: 316 Writing: 318 Mathematics: 316	Yes	Yes, for non-Nebraska residents and those who have not lived in NE for 5 consecutive years Must also be "of good moral character", have no felony conviction or misdemean- or involving abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct, and have not been determined mentally incompetent

STATE	*EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS*	*EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS*	*EXAMINATION*	*RECIPROCITY*	*BACK GROUND CHECK*
NEVADA Education Department 1820 E. Sahara Avenue Suite 205 Las Vegas, NV 89104 (702) 486-6458 www.nde.state.nv.us $100.00 application fee	Master's degree in counseling or related field **OR** NCC certification by NBCC **AND** 36 semester hrs in the following areas: • Individual counseling • Group counseling • Individual and group assessment • Structure and management of comprehensive programs for guidance and counseling • Developmental group guidance • Child and family guidance • Counseling on the abuse of controlled substances • Developing careers and choosing occupations • Practicum **AND** any 2 of the following: • Crisis Intervention • Exceptional Children • Counseling Persons from Different Cultures • Advanced Human Growth & Development • Educational Research Coursework in NV School Law, NV Constitution, & the U.S. Constitution	If Master's is in a related field, must have completed 2 years of teaching or school counseling experience	Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling: 610 Must take exams on NV School Law, NV Constitution, & US Constitution if there has been no coursework in these areas	No	Yes Chest X-ray or TB skin test Must be a US citizen or have permanent resident status

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
NEW HAMPSHIRE Education Department 101 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-3494 www.ed.state.nh.us $80.00 application fee	Master's degree in guidance & counseling approved by the State Board of Education OR Acquired the competencies, skills, & knowledge of a guidance counselor through experience in comparable positions in education or other professions	None, except that applicants without Master's degree in guidance and counseling must have at least 3 months full-time teaching experience	Praxis I (PPST/CBT) Praxis II (TBA) State-administered written exam and oral review for applicants without a Master's degree in guidance and counseling	Yes	Yes, at the point of hire
NEW JERSEY Education Department 100 Riverview Plaza CN 503 Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 (609) 292-2045 www.state.nj.us/education $60.00 application fee	Bachelor's degree from an accredited/approved institution Completion of 30 semester credit hrs. of post-BA work in guidance & counseling, (6 semester hours) testing & evaluation, (3 semester hours), psychology (6 semester hours), & sociological foundations (6 semester hours) OR Completion of a NCATE approved counseling program	Must hold or be eligible to hold a valid New Jersey teaching certificate 1 yr. of successful teaching experience	No	No	Yes, at the point of hire Must be a US citizen

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
NEW MEXICO Education Department Education Building 300 Don Gaspar Street Santa Fe, NM 87501-2786 (505) 827-6587 www.sde.state.nm.us $50.00 application fee and $34.00 for fingerprint processing	Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college/university Master's degree in school counseling from a regionally accredited college/university approved by the NM Board of Education OR Master's degree in a discipline other than school counseling & 36-42 graduate hrs. in school counseling, including a practicum in a school setting approved by the NM Board of Education OR NCC certification by NBCC	Valid Level II NM teaching license OR 3 yrs. of documented, verified, & satisfactory experience in 1 or a combination of the following areas: teaching, school counseling, clinical practice, mental health work, or educational administration	No	No	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
NEW YORK Education Department Education Building, 5N Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12234 (518) 474-3901 www.nysed.gov $100.00 application fee	Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or from an institution approved by NY State Education Department **AND** For a provisional certificate (5 years): At least 30 semester hrs. of approved graduate study in the field of school counseling including supervised practice in school counseling 2 hrs. training in identification & reporting of child abuse and maltreatment, and 2 hrs. in violence intervention and prevention For a permanent certificate: Meet the educational requirements for a provisional certificate and complete 30 semester hrs. of additional graduate study in school counseling. Within the total program of preparation, a Master's degree is required.	For a provisional certificate (5 years): None For a permanent certificate: 2 yrs of school experience in the field of pupil personnel services	No	Yes	Yes, fingerprint clearance Must be a US citizen to obtain permanent certification

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
NORTH CAROLINA Department of Public Instruction, Licensure 301 N. Wilmington Street Raleigh, NC 27601-2825 (919) 807-3310 (800) 577-7994 (NC only) www.dpi.state.nc.us $85.00 application fee	Master's degree from a state-approved program in guidance & counseling	None	Praxis II: School Guidance and Counseling: 570 (test #20420)	Yes	Yes, required at the district level
NORTH DAKOTA Public Instruction Department State Capitol, 11th Floor 600 E. Boulevard Avenue Bismarck, ND 58505-0440 (701) 328-2260 www.state.nd.us/espb No application fee	Master's degree from a state-approved school counseling program Internship in school counseling (completion of a minimum of 450 contact hours)	Must hold a valid ND teaching license 2 yrs. of teaching/related human services experience	None	No	Yes, FBI background check and fingerprinting

STATE	*EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS*	*EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS*	*EXAMINATION*	*RECIPROCITY*	*BACK GROUND CHECK*
OHIO Education Department 25 S. Front Street, Rm. 412 Columbus, OH 43215 (614) 466-3593 www.ode.state.oh.us Application fee: $40.00 in-state, $90.00 out-of-state Fingerprint & background check: $39.00	Master's degree from an approved program in school counseling	2 yrs. teaching experience under a provisional or professional teacher license (for out-of-state applicants 2 yrs. teaching requirement may be waived if have 5 yrs. of school counseling experience)	NTE (if taken prior to 9/1999) OR Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling: 510	No	Yes
OKLAHOMA Education Department 2500 N. Lincoln Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (405) 521-3337 www.sde.state.ok.us $30.00 application fee	Master's degree in school counseling & guidance	None	With an OK teaching certificate: Oklahoma Subject Area Test in School Counseling Without teaching certificate: Oklahoma General Education Test Oklahoma Subject Area Test in School Counseling Oklahoma Professional Teaching Exam	Yes	Yes, districts have the option of requiring a background check. Also, Oklahoma law requires a state and national search for initial license.

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
OREGON Teaching Standards & Practices Commission 465 Commercial St. NE Salem, OR 97301 (503) 378-3586 www.tspc.state.or.us Out-of-state applicants: $90.00 application fee. In-state applicants: $60.00 fee Fingerprint processing fee: $42.00	Initial Counselor License: Master's degree from an approved teacher education institution, with 24 quarter hrs. of graduate preparation in: • Counseling Theory & Interventions • Groups: Theory & Interventions • Lifestyle & Career Development • Appraisal of Individuals • Social & Cultural Foundations • Consultation & Community Resources • Parent/Family Relations Completion of 6 quarter hrs. of supervised practicum or internship Continuing Counselor License: Meet educational requirements for an initial counselor license and hold a Master's degree. Additional coursework in legal and professional issues for the school counselor; program development, management, and technology assisted guidance activities; research and evaluation; and specialty areas.	Initial Counselor License: Previous experience is not required, but applicants with 2 or more yrs. of teaching experience may obtain an initial counselor license without a Master's degree if they have earned the 24 quarter hrs. specified in the educational requirements (A Master's degree is required for the continuing counselor license, however) 1 yr. of previous school counseling experience may be substituted for required practicum/internship Applicants without prior teaching experience must complete both a teaching and a counseling practicum Continuing Counselor License: At least 3 yrs. of half time school experience	California Basic Education Skills Test (total score needed to pass: 123) OR Praxis I (PPST): Reading: 174 Writing: 171 Mathematics: 175 AND Demonstrate knowledge of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, & state and federal statutes prohibiting discrimination.	Yes	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
PENNSYLVANIA Education Department 333 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333 (717) 783-6788 www.pde.state.pa.us $15.00 application fee	Bachelor's degree from an approved/accredited institution Completion of an approved program in school counseling Minimum of a 300-hr. supervised school counseling internship (the college/univ. program can set the # of hrs. required)	None	Praxis I PPST: -Reading: 172 -Writing: 173 -Math: 173 -Listening: 172 AND Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling *CBT tests not acceptable	No	Yes, for employment
RHODE ISLAND Elementary & Secondary Education Department 255 Westminister Street Providence, RI 02903 (401) 222-4600, ext. 2003 www.ridoe.net $25.00 application fee	Bachelor's degree from an approved/accredited institution Completion of an advanced degree in an approved program in school counseling OR Master's degree from an accredited/approved institution with at least 24 semester hrs. in school counseling, including a 3 semester hour internship	Must hold or be eligible to hold a RI provisional teaching certificate 2 yrs. teaching experience at the elementary or secondary level	None	Yes	Yes, for employment

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
SOUTH CAROLINA Education Department 1429 Senate Street Room 602-B Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 734-8466 www.state.sc.us/sde $49.00 application fee	Bachelor's degree **AND** Master's degree in school counseling from a regionally accredited institution	None	Praxis I **AND** Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling: 550	Yes	Yes
SOUTH DAKOTA Education & Cultural Affairs Department 700 Governors Drive Pierre, SD 57501-2291 (605) 773-3134 www.state.sd.us/deca $30.00 application fee	Bachelor's degree from an accredited 4 yr. college/ university **AND** Master's degree in school counseling & guidance, including a 600 clock hr. school internship under the supervision of a certified counselor & counselor educator Recency credit	None, except that individuals who hold a SD teacher certificate are not required to complete the 600 hr. internship	None	No	No

STATE	*EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS*	*EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS*	*EXAMINATION*	*RECIPROCITY*	*BACK GROUND CHECK*
TENNESSEE Office of Certification & Licensure Andrew Johnson Tower 710 James Robertson Pkwy. 5th Floor Nashville, TN 37243-0379 (615) 532-4880 www.state.tn.us/education No application fee	Master's degree in an approved PreK-12 school counseling program Completion of a 1 semester school counseling internship. (universities require 300 hrs. preK-6 level and 300 hrs. 7-12 level = total of 600 hrs.)	None, but applicants without teaching experience must complete a semester-long orientation experience in a school setting as an early part of their preparation program	Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling *Out-of-state applicants are not required to take this test if certain requirements are met (contact the TN Office of Certification & Licensure for more information)	Yes exempt	Yes, but is required at the district level
TEXAS State Board for Educator Certification 1001 Trinity Austin, TX 78701-2603 (512) 469-3000 (888) 863-5880 www.sbec.state.tx.us $75.00 application fee	Bachelor's degree **AND** Completion of a 30 hr. graduate program in school counseling that includes 3 semester hrs. in the guidance program, 6 semester hrs. in child development, and 21 semester hrs. in educational & occupational information, testing, guidance techniques, and a supervised practicum *Effective 9/2002 a Master's degree will be required from an accredited institution of higher learning	Must hold a valid TX teacher certificate 3 yrs. of classroom teaching experience *Effective 9/2002, this will change to 2 years of teaching experience required	Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas (ExCET) (#60)	Yes	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
UTAH Education Office 250 E. 500 South Salt Lake City, UT 84111 (801) 538-7740 www.usoe.k12.ut.us $15.00 filing fee and $25.00 application fee $60.00 fingerprint processing fee	Master's degree program in school counseling & guidance Practicum experience (the college/university program sets the # of hrs. required) Supervised 600-hr. field experience	None	None	Yes	Yes
VERMONT Education Department 120 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620-2501 (802) 828-2445 www.state.vt.us/educ $35.00 application review fee	Master's degree in guidance or its equivalent from a regionally accredited or state approved institution Supervised 300 clock hr. internship in school guidance 180 clock hrs. of field experience which provide for an awareness of the application of guidance services at the elementary (60 hrs.), middle/junior high (60 hrs.), and senior high (60 hrs.) levels	None	Demonstrate knowledge of the basic program components of VT Guidance Services K-12, issued by the VT State Dept. of Education Demonstrate ability to write clearly, apply appropriate mathematics skills effectively, to speak correctly, and to respond construct-ively to various student behaviors and needs	No	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
VIRGINIA Education Department James Monroe Building PO Box 2120 Richmond, VA 23218-2120 (804) 225-2022 www.pen.k12.va.us Application fee: $50.00 in-state, $75.00 out-of state	Master's degree from an approved counselor education program which shall include at least 100 hours of clinical experience in the preK-6 setting and 100 hours in the grades 7-12 setting. OR Master's degree from an accredited college/university & completion of an approved counselor education program where sufficient coursework and clinical experience was acquired.	2 yrs. of successful, full-time teaching or counseling experience * requirement may be satisfied with full-time guidance and counseling experience earned under a VA provisional license	None	Yes	Yes, background checks are required by local school boards for new employees
WASHINGTON Professional Education & Certification Department PO Box 47200 Olympia, WA 98504-7200 (360) 725-6400 www.k12.wa.us/cert/ $55.00 application fee and $59.00 fingerprint processing fee	Master's degree from an accredited college/university in counseling and completion of a state approved program in school counseling & guidance Completion of 10 clock hrs. of coursework relating to issues of abuse	Initial Level: None Continuing Level: 180 days in school setting	Written comprehensive exam as part of Master's degree OR National Counselor Examination OR Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling	Yes	Yes

STATE	*EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS*	*EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS*	*EXAMINATION*	*RECIPROCITY*	*BACK GROUND CHECK*
WEST VIRGINIA Department of Education Building 6, Room 252 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East Charleston, WV 25305 (304) 558-7010 (800) 982-2378 http://wvde.state.wv.us $49.00 initial application fee $15.00 subsequent applications	Master's degree from an accredited institution Completion of an approved program for school counselors through an accredited institution of higher education Overall GPA of 2.5	None	Praxis II: School Guidance & Counseling	Yes	Yes, beginning in 2002, all initial applicants must submit fingerprints for a state and FBI back ground check Must be US citizen Must present evidence of good moral character & personal physical, emotional, & mental fitness to perform the duties of a counselor

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
WISCONSIN Public Instruction Department PO Box 7841 Madison, WI 53707-7841 (608) 266-3390 www.dpi.state.wi.us In-state: $100.00 Out-of-state: $150.00	Master's degree in school counseling & guidance OR Master's degree that includes 30 semester credits in school counseling & guidance	Eligibility for a WI license to teach in the elementary/ secondary schools & 2 yrs. of successful teaching experience at the elementary/secondary school levels OR Completion of an approved elementary/secondary teacher education programs & 2 yrs. of successful teaching experience at the elementary/ secondary school levels OR Completion of an approved 1 yr. full-time internship in school counseling OR A minimum of 2 yrs. of successful experience as a licensed school counselor in an assigned position of ½ time or more * Those with a Master's degree in school counseling may obtain a 3 year non-renewable license to meet the 2 year experience requirement.	Pending review	No	Yes

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	EXAMINATION	RECIPROCITY	BACK GROUND CHECK
WYOMING Professional Teaching Standards Board Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor 2300 Capitol Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050 (307) 777-7291 www.k12.wy.us $200.00 application fee $45.00 fingerprint processing fee	Completion of a teacher preparation program Master's degree in school counseling & guidance from an approved program Practicum or an internship in a recognized K-12 school setting (the college/university program sets the # of hrs. required)	Must hold a valid WY teaching certificate 2 yrs. of classroom teaching or school counseling experience in a recognized K-12 school setting OR 3 yrs. of comparable experience in a human services setting	Examinations on the Constitutions of the U.S. & Wyoming	Yes	Yes

STATE MANDATES FOR THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Through both legislative and administrative action, a growing number of states require local school districts to provide guidance and counseling services to their students.

This year, ACA conducted a survey of state education agencies to determine the current status of counseling mandates, the grade levels to which the mandates apply, the source of mandates (administrative or legislative action), specific requirements of the mandates (e.g., counselor-student ratios), and whether the mandate was supported with state or local funds. Agencies in states without a mandate were also asked if they were actively considering establishing a mandate through administrative action.

The results of the survey are outlined in the chart on pages 43-50 of this report. Pages 51-59 contain actual mandates for (5) states.

AN OVERVIEW OF STATE COUNSELING MANDATES

⇒ ***Twenty-eight (28) states and the District of Columbia mandate the provision of guidance and counseling services in public elementary and/or secondary schools.*** Most of these mandates were established through legislative action. New Jersey just recently mandated school counseling.

♦ Two (2) states, Minnesota and Wyoming, are actively considering establishing a mandate through legislative action.

⇒ ***Twenty-five (24) states and the District of Columbia mandate the provision of guidance and counseling at all grade levels.*** Two (2) states only mandate services in grades 7-12 (Indiana and New York), and another two (2) states only mandate services in grades 9-12 (Mississippi and Nebraska).

⇒ ***Sixteen states (16) prescribe specific counselor-student ratios in their mandates.*** Ratios range from 1 counselor for every 400 students to 1 counselor for every 800 students.

⇒ ***Most state counseling mandates are funded through local tax levy funds.*** Twelve (12) states provide state funding to support mandated counseling services.

⇒ ***One (1) state, Utah, requires school guidance and counseling services as part of the public elementary and secondary schools' accreditation process.***

STATE COUNSELING MANDATES

State	Is Counseling Mandated?	Grade Level K-8	Grade Level 9-12	Ratio Counselor: Students	Source Of Mandate	Who Funds Mandate?	Is Mandate Being Considered?
Alabama	Yes	✓	✓	1:500-749*	State Foundation Program	State	
Alaska	No						No
Arizona	No						No
Arkansas	Yes	✓	✓	K-8: 1:450 9-12: 1:450	Legislative action	Local	
California	No						No
Colorado	No						No
Connecticut	No						No

State	Is Counseling Mandated?	Grade Level K-8	Grade Level 9-12	Ratio Counselor: Students	Source Of Mandate	Who Funds Mandate?	Is Mandate Being Considered?
Delaware	No						No
District of Columbia	Yes	✓	✓			State and Local	
Florida	No						No
Georgia	Yes	✓	✓	1:400	Agency Action		
Hawaii	Yes	✓	✓	Flexible	Legislative action	State	
Idaho	No						No
Illinois	No						No
Indiana	Yes	✓ (7-8)	✓	Considering	State Board of Education Rules & IN Professional Standards Board	State	

State	Is Counseling Mandated?	Grade Level K-8	Grade Level 9-12	Ratio Counselor: Students	Source Of Mandate	Who Funds Mandate?	Is Mandate Being Considered?
Iowa	Yes	✓	✓	None	Legislative & agency action	State	
Kansas	No						
Kentucky	No						No
Louisiana	Yes	✓	✓	1:400	Legislative action		
Maine	Yes	✓	✓	None	Legislative action	Local	
Maryland	No						No
Massachusetts	No						No

State	Is Counseling Mandated?	Grade Level K-8	Grade Level 9-12	Ratio Counselor: Students	Source Of Mandate	Who Funds Mandate?	Is Mandate Being Considered?
Michigan	No						No
Minnesota	No						Yes
Mississippi	Yes		✓	One half-time counselor position required at each secondary school	Legislative action	State	
Missouri	Yes	✓	✓	1:500	State Board of Education	75% State 25% Local	
Montana	Yes	✓	✓	1:400	Board of Public Education	Unfunded	
Nebraska	Yes		✓	1:450	State Board (Rule 10)	Local	

State	Is Counseling Mandated?	Grade Level K-8	Grade Level 9-12	Ratio Counselor: Students	Source Of Mandate	Who Funds Mandate?	Is Mandate Being Considered?
Nevada	Yes	✓	✓		State Board	Unfunded	
New Hampshire	Yes	✓	✓	K-5: 1:500 6-12: 1:300	Agency action	Local	
New Jersey	Yes	✓	✓	None	State Board	Local	
New Mexico	Yes	✓	✓	None	Agency action	Local	
New York	Yes	✓ (7-8)	✓	None	Agency action	Local	
North Carolina	Yes	✓	✓	1:400	Legislative & agency action	State and local	
North Dakota	Yes	✓	✓	Secondary: 1: 450 Elementary: 1:500	Legislative & agency action	Legislature	

State	Is Counseling Mandated?	Grade Level K-8	Grade Level 9-12	Ratio Counselor: Students	Source Of Mandate	Who Funds Mandate?	Is Mandate Being Considered?
Ohio	No						No
Oklahoma	Yes	✓	✓	1:450	Legislative & agency action		
Oregon	No						No
Pennsylvania	No						No
Rhode Island	Yes	✓*	✓	Recommended 7-12: 1:500	Legislative & agency action	State and local	
South Carolina	Yes	✓	✓	K-5: 1:800 6-12: 1:500	Legislative & agency action	State	
South Dakota	No						No

State	Is Counseling Mandated?	Grade Level K-8	Grade Level 9-12	Ratio Counselor: Students	Source Of Mandate	Who Funds Mandate?	Is Mandate Being Considered?
Tennessee	Yes	✓	✓	Recommended K-6: 1:500 7-12: 1:350	State Law	State	
Texas	No						No
Utah	Needed for incentive grants*	Proposed	✓				No
Vermont	Yes	✓	✓	K-6: 1:400 7-12: 1:300	Agency action	Local	
Virginia	Yes	✓	✓	1:500	Legislative action	State	
Washington	No						No
West Virginia	Yes	✓	✓	K-6: 1:500 7-8: 1:450 9-12: 1:400	Legislative action	Local	

State	Is Counseling Mandated?	Grade Level K-8	Grade Level 9-12	Ratio Counselor: Students	Source Of Mandate	Who Funds Mandate?	Is Mandate Being Considered?
Wisconsin	Yes	✓	✓	None	Legislative action	Local	
Wyoming	No						Yes

* **Alabama** - Required counselor-to-students ratio is based on the following SACS standards based on school population:

Number of Counselors	Elementary	Secondary
0.5	1-499	1-499
1.0	500-749	500-749
1.5	750-799	
2.0	1,000-1249	750-999
2.5	1,250-1499	1,000-1249
3.0	1,500 and up	1,250 and up

* **Rhode Island** - Counseling services for grade levels K-8 need not be provided by certified guidance counselors.

* **Utah** - Counseling is not mandated, but accreditation is needed for incentive grants through the Comprehensive Guidance Program SEOP - Student Education Occupation Plan. The state's goal for counselor-to-students ratio for grades 7-12 is 1:400.

Georgia

(State Board of Education Regulation)

A school system with a school enrolling students in any grade 9-12 shall employ SCHOOL COUNSELORS to provide guidance and counseling services, including guidance program program planning, implementation and evaluation. The number of counselors required is determined as follows:

9-12 FTE	*Counselors*
1-220	1/2
221-440	1

(i) A school system shall employ an additional half-time counselor in a school for each additional 250 FTE above 440 in that school.

(ii) Once a school system has employed three counselors for a school, it may employ paraprofessionals for guidance activities in lieu of additional counselors for that school at a ratio of three paraprofessionals for one counselor.

1. Personnel employed as required by this rule shall meet the in-field requirements of the following rules as appropriate to the position.

160-4-2-.28 Qualification and Duties: Paraprofessional Personnel
160-4-7-.11 Qualified Psychological Examiners
160-6-1-.123 In-Field Statement
160-6-1-.138 Media Specialist
160-6-1-.139 School Counseling
160-6-1-.140 School Nutrition Director
160-6-1-.141 School Psychology
160-6-1-.142 School Social Work
160-6-1-.158 Administration and Supervision
160-6-1-.159 Director of Special Education
160-6-1-.160 Director of Vocational Education
160-6-1-.162 Director of Media Centers
160-6-1-.163 Director of Pupil Personnel Services
160-6-1-.166 Instructional Supervision

Louisiana

(Louisiana House Bill No.2001 Act 911)

An Act

To enact R.S. 17:3005, relative to guidance counselors; to provide relative to elementary school guidance counselors for all students in kindergarten through grade six; to require parish and city school boards to provide such counselors according to certain guidelines; to provide relative to certification requirements for such counselors; to provide certain guidance services and work time for such guidance counselors; to provide relative to certain exceptions; to provide for annual reporting by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide relative to funding; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section I.R.S. 17:3005 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Elementary school guidance counselors; availability; guidelines; requirements; guidance services; work time; exceptions; reporting; funding.

A. Each parish and city school board shall provide elementary school guidance counselors for all students in kindergarten through grade six in the public elementary schools in the state in accordance with guidelines as established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Such guidelines shall require that there shall be one guidance counselor per every four hundred students.

B. Any elementary school guidance counselor employed by a parish or city school board pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be certified as required by the state of Louisiana.

C. Such guidance counselors shall provide preventive and developmental guidance services to all public elementary school students in kindergarten through grade six in order to prepare them for middle, junior, and senior high school responsibilities and their social and physical development. In providing such guidance services, the counselors may:

(1) Aid children in academic development through the use and interpretation of test scores, improved pupil self-concept, and early identification and attention to problems that are deterrents to learning and development.

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(2) Serve as consultants to teachers relative to the use of test scores and improvement of the learning environment, use of out-of-state school resources and agencies, and development of a home-school liaison.

(3) Offer services related to the identification and placement of children with handicapping conditions.

(4) Serve as a consultant to parents, in a liaison capacity, as a resource in understanding growth and development problems, and as an aid in understanding how some non-school factors affect learning and achievement of children.

(5) Serve as a resource in decreasing discipline and other at-risk behavioral problems through an understanding of peer relations, teacher-pupil relations, social awareness, drug awareness, and others.

(6) Aid in improving school attendance and retention by implementing an early identification and prevention program for potential attendance and retention problems.

(7) Serve as a resource to parents in decreasing the incidence of juvenile delinquency by early intervention through guidance and counseling services.

(8) Consult with teachers in implementing a career development program which, at the elementary school level, includes self-awareness, job awareness, and prevocational orientation.

(9) Provide an available source for youngsters needing someone to "just listen" to their problems or concerns.

D. Guidance counselors shall spend the majority of their time on providing direct counseling related to students.

E. Nothing in Subsection A of this Section shall prohibit any parish or city school board from employing more elementary school guidance counselors than provided in Subsection A.

F. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall annually report to the legislature on the implementation and effectiveness of the program as provided in this Section.

G. The provisions of this Section shall become effective upon the provision of funds for this purpose in the Minimum Foundation Program.

New Hampshire

(State Board of Education Regulation)

Ed 306.14 Guidance

Each school shall develop and implement a written plan for the school's guidance and counseling program which shall be developmentally appropriate and designed to address the educational and career needs of all students.

(a) For each school, this plan shall provide for the delivery of the following:

(1) career, occupational, and educational information;
(2) student appraisal activities;
(3) placement services; and
(4) the identification and referral of students in need of special services, including suicide prevention and psychiatric referrals.

(b) For each high school, this plan shall also provide for the delivery of career and college counseling.

Ed 306.17 Provision of Staff and Staff Qualifications

(a) To carry out the educational program established by these standards and local school board policy, each school shall provide the services of a principal, a library media generalist, teachers, and guidance counselor(s). In addition, each elementary school shall provide the services of a reading specialist to facilitate the delivery of the language arts and reading program established in Ed 306.30(a).

(c) In each elementary school, in carrying out the guidance program established by Ed 306.14, the counseling load shall not exceed the equivalent of 1 full-time guidance counselor per 500 students served. In each middle/junior high school and each high school, in carrying out the guidance program established by Ed 306.14, the counseling load shall not exceed the equivalent of 1 full-time guidance counselor per 300 students served.

New Mexico

(State Board of Education Regulation No.90-2)

Support Services and Programs

A.7.1 Guidance Programs

A.7.1.1. Each school district shall offer a guidance program concerned with physical, social, intellectual, emotional, and vocational growth of each student. It shall be integrated with the entire educational program.

A.7.1.2. Each district shall design and staff its program to meet its assessed needs.

A.7. 1.3. Students shall be assisted in the development of social skills such as understanding and acceptance of themselves and others.

A.7.1.4. The program shall help students (K-12) understand the role of education in their lives and think maturely about life planning, goal seeking, choice making, and problem solving.

A.7.1.5. Career counseling shall provide information on educational and occupational opportunities and shall help students assess their aptitudes and interests. This shall be done on a continuing basis beginning at the kindergarten level.

A.7.1.6. Individual counseling shall provide students with opportunities for acquiring skills to deal with their personal lives.

A.7.1.7. Both student schedules and counselor schedules shall provide time for counseling.

A.7.1.8. The counselor in a multicultural setting shall know how to deal with its unique social, economic, and political characteristics.

A. 7.1.9. Functions of the guidance staff:

A. Maintain confidential, appropriate, adequate, and meaningful counseling records.

B. Establish a functional system (consistent with State Department of Education Regulations) to identify students with special aptitudes and disabilities and to provide appropriate follow up.

C. Coordinate and implement a program to help the school staff understand their students.

D. Design and implement orientation programs to facilitate the pupil's transition from elementary to middle/junior high school and from middle/junior high school to high school.

E. Demonstrate an understanding of child growth and behavior.

F. Serve as a student, staff, and community resource in each school.

South Carolina

Constitutional and Statutory Provisions:
Section 59-5-60. General powers of [State] Board.
Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.

State Board Regulation:
Guidance Program

Elementary Schools:

1. Guidance services or remedial teacher(s) in reading and/or math are required in schools having any combination of grades 1-6.

2. Students in grades 1-6 shall be provided services of a guidance counselor or remedial teacher in reading or math in the following ratio:

Membership	*FTE*	*or*	*Minutes Daily*
800 or more	1.0		300
640-799	.8		240
480-639	.6		180
320-479	.4		120
Less than 320	.2		60

3. Guidance services are required for grades 5 and 6 when housed with grades 7 and/or 8.

4. Appropriate space shall be provided for counseling.

5. A comprehensive, written guidance plan shall provide the basis and structure for the guidance program.

6. Adequate materials shall be provided to implement the program.

7. The program shall include standardized testing.

Grades 7-8:

1. Guidance Services shall be provided for schools with any combination of grades 7-8.

2. Schools with fewer than 600 pupils shall provide the serves of a guidance counselor in the following ratio:

Membership	*Minimum Allotted Time*
up to 200	100 minutes daily
201 to 300	150 minutes daily
301 to 400	200 minutes daily
401 to 500	250 minutes daily
501 to 600	300 minutes daily

3. Schools with memberships of 501 or more shall employ one full-time certified counselor. Schools with more than 600 students shall provide guidance services at the ratio of one 50-minute period for each 100 students or major portion thereof.

4. A private office shall be provided for counseling.

5. A comprehensive written guidance plan shall provide the basis and structure for the guidance program.

6. Adequate materials shall be provided to implement the program.

7. The program shall include standardized testing.

Secondary Schools:

1. Schools with less than 600 students shall provide the services of a guidance counselor in the following ratio:

Membership	*Minimum Allotted Time*
up to 200	100 minutes daily
201 to 300	150 minutes daily
301 to 400	200 minutes daily
401 to 500	250 minutes daily
501 to 600	300 minutes daily

2. Schools with memberships of 501 or more shall employ one full-time certified counselor. Schools with more than 600 students shall provide guidance services at the ratio of 50 minutes for each additional 51-100 students to the extent that the total school membership reflects a minimum of 50 minutes of guidance services for each 100 students.

3. A private office shall be provided for counseling.

4. A comprehensive written guidance plan shall provide the basis and structure for the guidance program.

5. Adequate materials shall be provided.

6. The program shall include standardized testing.

Vocational Centers:

1. Vocational centers servicing less than 300 students shall provide the services of a qualified counselor for vocational students in the following ratio:

Membership	*Minimum Alloted Time*
up to 200	100 minutes daily
201 to 300	150 minutes daily

2. Schools serving more than 300 students shall provide guidance services at the ratio of 50 minutes for each additional 50-100 students to the extent that the total school membership reflects a minimum of 50 minutes of guidance services for each 100 students. Schools serving memberships of 501 or more shall have one full-time certified counselor.

3. A private office shall be provided for counseling vocational students.

4. Adequate materials and supplies shall be provided for guidance programs conducted in the vocational centers.

Role Statement: The School Counselor

American School Counselor Association

The American School Counselor Association recognizes and supports the implementation of comprehensive developmental counseling programs at all educational levels. The programs are designed to help all students develop their educational, social, career, and personal strengths and to become responsible and productive citizens. School counselors help create and organize these programs, as well as provide appropriate counselor interventions.

School counseling programs are developmental by design, focusing on needs, interests, and issues related to the various stages of student growth. There are objectives, activities, special services and expected outcomes, with an emphasis on helping students to learn more effectively and efficiently. There is a commitment to individual uniqueness and the maximum development of human potential. A counseling program is an integral part of a school's total educational program.

The School Counselor

The school counselor is a certified professional educator who assists students, teachers, parents, and administrators. Three generally recognized helping processes used by the counselor are counseling, consulting, and coordinating: 1) Counseling is a complex helping process in which the counselor establishes a trusting and confidential working relationship. The focus is on problem-solving, decision-making, and discovering personal meaning related to learning and development; 2) Consultation is a cooperative process in which the counselor-consultant assists others to think through problems and to develop skills that make them more effective in working with students; 3) Coordination is a leadership process in which the counselor helps organize and manage a school's counseling program and related services.

School counselors are employed in elementary, middle/junior high, senior high, and post-secondary schools. Their work is differentiated by attention to age-specific developmental stages of growth and related interests, tasks, and challenges. School counselors are human behavior and relationship specialists who organize their work around fundamental interventions.

Counselor interventions have sometimes been referred to as functions, services, approaches, tasks, activities, or jobs. They have, at times, been viewed as roles themselves, helping to create the image of the counselor. In a comprehensive developmental counseling program, school counselors organize their work schedules around the following basic interventions:

- **Individual Counseling**. Individual counseling is a personal and private interaction between a counselor and a student in which they work together on a problem or topic of interest. A face-to-face, one-to-one meeting with a counselor provides a student maximum privacy in which to freely explore ideas, feelings, and behaviors. School counselors establish trust and build a helping relationship. They respect the privacy of information, always considering actions in terms of the rights, integrity, and welfare of students. Counselors are obligated by law and ethical standards to report and to refer a case when a person's welfare is in jeopardy. It is a counselor's duty to inform an individual of the conditions and limitations under which assistance may be provided.

- **Small Group Counseling**. Small group counseling involves a counselor working with two or more students together. Group size generally ranges from five to eight members. Group discussion may be relatively unstructured or may be based on structured learning activities. Group members have an opportunity to learn from each other. They can share ideas, give and receive feedback, increase their awareness, gain new knowledge, practice skills, and think about their goals and actions. Group discussions may be problem-centered, where attention is given to particular concerns or problems. Discussions may be growth-centered, where general topics are related to personal and academic development.

- **Large Group Guidance**. Large group meetings offer the best opportunity to provide guidance to the largest number of students in a school. Counselors first work with students in large groups wherever appropriate because it is the most efficient use of time. Large group work involves cooperative learning methods, in which the larger group is divided into smaller working groups under the supervision of a counselor or teacher. The guidance and counseling curriculum, composed of organized objectives and adjectives, is delivered by teachers or counselors in classrooms or advisory groups. School counselors and teachers may co-lead some activities. Counselors develop and present special guidance units which give attention to particular development issues or areas of concern in their respective schools and they help prepare teachers to deliver part of the guidance and counseling curriculum.

- **Consultation**. The counselor as a consultant helps people to be more effective in working with others. Consultation helps individuals think through problems and concerns, acquire more knowledge and skill, and become more objective and self-confident. This intervention can take place in individual or group conferences, or through staff-development activities.

- **Coordination**. Coordination as a counselor intervention is the process of managing various indirect services which benefit students and being a liaison between school and community agencies. It may include organizing special events which involve parents or resource people in the community in guidance projects. It often entails collecting data and disseminating information. Counselors might coordinate a student needs

assessment, the interpretation of standardized tests, a child study team, or a guidance related teacher or parent education program.

The Preparation of School Counselors

School counselors are prepared for their work through the study of interpersonal relationships and behavioral sciences in graduate education courses in accredited colleges and universities. Preparation involves special training in counseling theory and skills related to school settings. Particular attention is given to personality and human development theories and research, including career and life-skills development; learning theories, the nature of change and the helping process; theories and approaches to appraisal, multicultural and community awareness; educational environments; curriculum development; professional ethics; and, program planning, management, and evaluation.

Counselors are prepared to use the basic interventions in a school setting, with special emphasis on the study of helping relationships, facilitative skills, brief counseling; group dynamics and group learning activities; family systems, brief counseling; group dynamics and group learning activities; family systems; peer helper programs, multicultural and cross-cultural helping approaches; and, educational and community resources for special school populations.

School counselors are aware of their own professional competencies and responsibilities within the school setting. They know when and how to refer or involve other professionals. They are accountable for their actions and participate in appropriate studies and research related to their work.

Responsibility to the Profession

To assure high quality practice, counselors are committed to continued professional growth and personal development. They are active members of the American Association for Counseling and Development and the American School Counselor Association, as well as state and local professional associations which foster and promote school counseling. They also uphold the ethical and professional standards of these associations.

School counselors meet the state certification standards and abide by the laws in the states where they are working. Counselors work cooperatively with individuals and organizations to promote the overall development of children, youth, and families in their communities.

(Adopted July 1990)

THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS

THE POSITION STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (ASCA): (Adopted 1997)

ASCA endorses comprehensive school counseling programs that promote and enhance student learning. The focus of the program is on the three broad and interrelated areas of student development: academic, career, and personal/social development. Each encompasses a variety of desired student learning competencies, which form the foundation of the developmental school counseling program. The school counselor uses a variety of activities and resources to promote the desired student development. School counselor responsibilities include organization, implementation, and coordination of the program.

THE RATIONALE

A comprehensive school counseling program is developmental in nature. It is systematic, sequential, clearly defined, and accountable. The foundation of the program is developmental psychology, educational philosophy, and counseling methodology. Proactive and preventative in focus, the school counseling program is integral to the educational program. It assists students in acquiring and using life-long skills through the development of academic, career, self-awareness, and interpersonal communication skills. The goal of the comprehensive school counseling program is to provide all students with life success skills.

The school counseling program has characteristics similar to other educational programs, including scope and sequence; student competencies or outcomes; activities and processes to assist students in achieving the outcomes; professionally credentialed personnel; materials and resources; and national standards for evaluation.

We recognize that our educational system is being challenged by the increasing needs of today's students and the rising expectations of society. Many of our children enter school with emotional, physical, and interpersonal barriers to learning. Although comprehensive school counseling programs include necessary crisis-oriented responsive services, the emphasis is on the developmental skill building for all students beginning when students enter school and continuing as they progress through the grades.

Effective school counseling programs are a collaborative effect between the counselor and other educators to create an environment which promotes school success. Staff and counselors value and respond to diversity and individual differences in our society and communities. Comprehensive school counseling programs help ensure equal opportunities for all students to participate fully in the educational process.

This school counseling model is compatible with the *National Education Goals* and the *National Standards for School Counseling Programs*.

THE COUNSELOR'S ROLE

Within a comprehensive school counseling program, counselors will focus their skills, time, and energy on direct service to students, staff, and families. ASCA recommends a realistic counselor-student ratio to be 1:250. School counselors will spend 70% of their time in direct service to students. Indirect services will include counseling program planning, maintenance and evaluation, participation is school site planning and implementation, partnerships and alliances with post-secondary institutions, businesses, and community agencies, and other tasks which enhance the mission of the program.

The comprehensive school counseling program balances many components. It requires counselors to deliver individual and small group counseling and large group guidance; to teach skill development in academic, career, and personal/social areas; to provide consultation and case management; and to coordinate, manage, and evaluate the school counseling program.

As student advocates, school counselors participate as members of the educational team. They consult and collaborate with teachers, administrators, and families to assist students to be successful academically, vocationally, and personally. School counselors are indispensable partners with the instructional staff in the development of contributing members of society. They assure, on behalf of students and their families, that all school programs facilitate the educational process and offer the opportunity for school success.

SUMMARY

A written comprehensive, developmentally-based preK-12 school counseling program should be implemented in every school district. It should include a systematic and planned program delivery that productively involves all students and promotes and enhances the learning process. The comprehensive school counseling program facilitates student development in three areas:

- academic development which includes the acquisition of skills, attitudes, and knowledge which contributes to effective learning in school and throughout the life span;
- career development which includes the foundation for the acquisition of skills, attitudes, and knowledge which will enable students to make a successful transition from school to careers;
- personal/social development which includes the acquisition of skills, attitudes, and knowledge to help students understand and respect self and others, acquire effective interpersonal skills, understand and practice safety and survival skills, and develop into contributing members of society.

The comprehensive school counseling program should be supported by appropriate resources and implemented and coordinated by a credentialed professional school counselor.

THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR CREDENTIALING AND LICENSURE

(Adopted 1990; revised 1993)

ASCA *strongly endorses and supports the school counselor standards developed by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs* (CACREP) *and encourages all state education agencies to adopt those professional standards for school counselor credentialing. Further,* ASCA *supports the credentialing and employment of well qualified counselors who have a background in the schools. It also supports the credentialing and employment of counselors who do not have a background in the schools as long as they have a Master's degree in the helping field with training in all areas specified by the* CACREP *standards plus a one year internship in a school under the supervision of a qualified school counselor and a university supervisor.*